

# Post 12 Pounds Watertown

State: Yankton Advances To Face R.C. Post 320 Today

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BROOKINGS — No matter who stepped to the plate for Yankton Post 12, the beat went on.

And on. Yankton, the defending state runner-up, put together one of its best offensive games of the season in a 20-7 seven-inning win Wednesday over Watertown at the South Dakota State Class A American Legion Baseball Tournament in Brookings.

Yankton (28-17) finished with 18 hits and saw four players record at least three hits. In all, eight of the nine guys in the lineup had a hit.

"That's huge," said Sheldon Gant, who had four hits, three runs scored and three RBI.

"That's the key to the game, when you can have confidence in everyone around you."

Yankton, which had no trouble scoring runs at its region tournament a week ago, advances to face Rapid City



Yankton's Brad Ulmer, left, rounds third base during Wednesday's first-round game against Watertown at the South Dakota State Class A American Legion Baseball Tournament in Brookings.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

## Rapid City Teams Win On Day 1 Of State 'A' Tournament

BROOKINGS — Rapid City Post 320 rallied from a 6-0 deficit after two innings, scoring 16 runs in the final three innings of a 17-7 victory over Sioux Falls West in the opening game of the South Dakota State American Legion Baseball Tournament on Wednesday at Bob Sheldon Field.

Curtis Stahlecker went 3-5 with a double and five RBI, and Brock Hansen went 3-4 with a double and three RBI to lead Post 320. Hunter Kiewel also went 3-4, driving in two runs. Scott Dingsu doubled and singled, Conner Burgess and Cullen Gilbertson each had two hits and Brewer doubled in the 17-hit barrage.

For West, Tyler Wildes had two hits and two RBI. Sam Lang doubled in the effort.

Brady Larson, who allowed one run in three innings of relief, picked up the win. Connor Hurley took the loss, giving up eight runs (six earned) in 4 2/3 innings of work.

## R.C. Post 22 9,

### Aberdeen 5

BROOKINGS — Four different players had two hits each as Rapid City Post 22 downed Aberdeen 9-5 in the opening round of the South Dakota State American Legion Baseball Tournament on Wednesday at Bob Sheldon Field.

Timmy Paris had two hits, including a home run, and three RBI to lead Post 22. Matt Vickers doubled and singled, driving in two. Tanner Simons and Drake Messenger each had two hits in the win.

For Aberdeen, Landon Hoellein doubled and singled. Lucas Heiser also doubled for Smitty's.

John Zastrow picked up the win. Riley McSherry struck out six in three innings of scoreless relief for the save. Heiser took the loss, striking out eight batters in six innings of work.

## Neb. Area C1

### Crofton 13,

### Creighton 2

CREIGHTON, Neb. — Crofton advanced to the Nebraska State Class C American Legion baseball tournament with a 13-2 victory over Creighton on Tuesday in the final of the Nebraska Area C1 Seniors baseball tournament in Creighton.

Crofton will face host Battle Creek on Saturday. Start time is set for 8 p.m.

Tyler Koch's first-inning home run got Crofton going, as it led 4-0 after three innings, then exploded for six runs in the sixth.

Brock Mueller picked up the win. Garrett Zimmerer took the loss.

## CREIGHTON 7, CROFTON

0: Creighton forced a second championship game with a 7-0 victory earlier on Tuesday.

Shane Willat's three-run home run helped spark Creighton's seven-run fifth inning. Trenton Guenther added a pair of doubles in the victory.

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## Adrian Peterson Back In Pads And Moving Forward With Vikings

MANKATO, Minn. (AP) — Adrian Peterson burst through the line of scrimmage and veered toward the sideline as he headed up the field.

Safety Robert Blanton had the Minnesota Vikings running back in his sights and eased off the throttle as he went in to "thud" Peterson, looking to deliver a cordial bump during the team's first training camp practice with players in pads. To Blanton's surprise, Peterson lowered his shoulder and delivered a jolt to the fourth-year defensive back.

Most veterans dread the early days of camp and the first few hits that open the door to six months filled with jarring blows, aches and pains.

Not Peterson. He hadn't felt the pop of the pads for more than 10 months, an exile brought on by child abuse allegations against him. With the case settled, his punishment over, his contract situation resolved and fans welcoming him back to the field, Peterson couldn't help but be a

little eager to finally get back to the business of football.

"I've been looking forward to it for a long time," said Peterson, who missed the final 15 games of last season. "It was good to get the first day down. I feel comfortable. I didn't feel sluggish or weighed down because of the pads. I felt pretty good."

Vikings owner Mark Wilf said he was only too happy to see Peterson back on the field with a smile on his face after so much drama surrounding the team and its star player.

"Obviously he's a unique talent and a good person," Wilf said. "We're happy he's here playing for us. We can't wait for the season to get going here."

There were times in the offseason that it appeared like Peterson could be parting ways with the only NFL franchise for which he has played. A perceived lack of support from some in the organization, and the criticism

that was heaped upon him by many fans and media when the allegations first surfaced, had Peterson thinking that it was time to move on.

But he was still under contract and the Vikings refused to entertain the idea of trading a player they believe can resume his role as the focal point of the offense, even as he passes the 30-year-old milestone that has spelled the beginning of the end for so many running backs before him.

As a show of faith, the Vikings also restructured Peterson's contract to guarantee him \$7 million next season in case of injury. It was the last in a series of efforts by the organization to smooth things over heading into a season with high expectations.

"He's had a long history here with the Vikings and the community," Wilf said. "We know what kind of person he is. That's all in the rearview mirror as far as some of that stuff goes and we're looking forward to him being a big part of our team going forward."

While Peterson occasionally had doubts about the support he had in the front office, his confidence in his teammates never wavered. Throughout the last 10 months, not one Vikings player has gone on the record to express any reservations about Peterson, which has allowed him to step right back into a leadership role on the team.

"I don't think it ever left," Peterson said about his status in the locker room. "That's the thing about the family I'm surrounded by. These guys, they've been supporting me. Such an unfortunate situation."

"But when it's family and they know you," he said, looking at a throng of media surrounding him, "some of you guys, I don't know you so I wouldn't pass judgment based off what I've heard or what I've seen if I didn't know what type of person you are. That's just the type of world we live in. These guys, they know me. They know what I'm made of."

## Pittsburgh Beats Minnesota 10-4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A failure to execute in a number of areas means the Minnesota Twins second-half swoon continues.

Andrew McCutchen hit a home run and turned an RBI single into a race around the bases while Minnesota made two errors in a five-run sixth inning, helping Francisco Liriano and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Twins 10-4 Wednesday for a two-game sweep.

Minnesota has lost four straight and is 3-8 since the All-Star Break.

"We're all out here to win, and it just hasn't been going our way," said Aaron Hicks, who had a season-high three hits.

Jung Ho Kang homered for the second straight day for the Pirates, after going deep for the go-ahead run in the ninth the night before. McCutchen's two-run, two-strike, two-out drive off Ervin Santana (2-1) in the fifth inning tied the game at 3, and the Twins unraveled in the sixth.

The game-breaking play was

almost comical.

With two runs already in and runners on first and second, McCutchen lined a single to right field and crossed the plate three miscues later.

The ball bounced in front of right fielder Eddie Rosario and skipped past him to the warning track, allowing another run to score and McCutchen to reach third.

The slow-rolling relay throw scooted underneath Eduardo Nunez's glove for another error that allowed McCutchen to score — but not before he collided with Nunez, contact that was hard enough to knock them both to the ground. McCutchen was awarded the plate for an 8-3 lead.

"You can look at a lot of areas that need improvement with the way we've been playing, starting, probably with managing and coaching," said manager Paul Molitor. "You're going to make mistakes and we learn from that and try to address those things best we can when they happen. ... We need to keep grinding."

## Bach: Boston Failed To Deliver

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — IOC President Thomas Bach said Boston was firmly to blame for its aborted bid for the 2024 Olympics and that the city failed to deliver on "promises" made to U.S. Olympic leaders when they selected the Massachusetts capital as the American candidate for the games.

Bach also said Wednesday has a "commitment" from the U.S. Olympic Committee that it will put forward a bid city for 2024, though he declined to endorse any other contender. Los Angeles is considered the USOC's likely choice ahead of the Sept. 15 deadline for official submission of candidates.

The International Olympic Committee leader gave his first extensive comments on the demise of the Boston bid, which was dropped amid poor public support, strong local opposition and lack of full political commitment.

"From the outside, I gave up following (the bid's troubles)," Bach said. "It was pretty confusing. Every day there was a new project coming from Boston or new people and new ideas. I really gave up following it in detail. But what we could see in a nutshell what happened there is that Boston did not deliver on promises they made to the USOC when they were

selected."

Bach also said he hopes the decision on the next U.S. bid city will involve discussions that are "a little bit more oriented on facts than emotions."

Ever since Boston was selected as the U.S. nominee ahead of Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, the bid struggled to gain local support and wallowed in approval ratings below 50 percent amid concern over the potential cost to taxpayers.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker said he wouldn't throw his weight behind the bid without a full report from a consulting group. And Mayor Marty Walsh said Monday he wouldn't be pressured into signing the host city contract if it would stick the city and state with paying for any cost overruns.

"In Boston and I'm pretty sure probably in the rest of America, we don't get forced into putting taxpayers' money at risk. And if that's confusing to the IOC president, then it shows exactly why the IOC is in the position they are, in not having multiple countries bid for the Olympics," Walsh said. "It really comes down to the guarantee that the IOC demand the United States Olympic Committee's host city sign."

## Chiefs' Eric Berry Back At Practice After Cancer Fight



DAVID EULITT/KANSAS CITY STAR/TNS

Kansas City Chiefs safety Eric Berry works out at the Chiefs training camp Wednesday at St. Joseph, Mo. It was the first time Berry had been cleared to practice since undergoing medical treatment for cancer.

### Team Hopeful Barry Headed In Right Direction

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (AP) — Pro Bowl safety Eric Berry returned to the Kansas City Chiefs' practice field Wednesday, just eight months after a cancer diagnosis threatened to derail his career.

Berry walked down the long hill from the locker room to the practice fields at Missouri Western State University, wearing his familiar No. 29 and with his helmet in hand. He stretched with rookies and select veterans, then joined them for parts of the workout.

"He looked pretty good out here with the work that he had," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said.

Berry passed a battery of tests before he was cleared to practice late Tuesday, but it remains unclear when he will be a full participant in practice.

Chiefs trainer Rick Burkholder said Berry will be monitored constantly, especially during the early portion of camp.

Veterans report Friday, and the first full-squad workout is Saturday.

"He did a good bit of practice today ... and at the end he felt pretty good," Burkholder said. "Right now, we're very optimistic that everything is headed in the right direction."

Berry was expected to speak to reporters later Wednesday.

The three-time Pro Bowl pick was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in December, shortly after a mass was discovered in his chest following a game against Oakland. Berry began the first of six rounds of chemotherapy on Dec. 10 at Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute near his home in Atlanta, and completed the final round of treatment on May 13.

Between each treatment, Berry was able to squeeze in 10 to 12 workouts, Burkholder

said. He even chose to have the chemotherapy delivered intravenously rather than through a PICC line, which would have severely limited his amount of physical activity.

"That's been his attitude — 'I'm going to work out during this. I'm going to start the first game.' That's his attitude," Reid said, "and that's what drove him through this. There were some tough days for him, this wasn't a breeze, but that's what motivated him."

On June 22, Berry had a follow-up PET scan that showed he was cancer-free.

The Chiefs had just finished their mandatory minicamp, so Berry headed to Florida, where he trained with teammates Travis Kelce, Justin Houston and others. Then last week, he headed back to Kansas City for another round of testing to make sure he was in football condition.

"He sailed through every test we gave him," Burkholder said

with a grin. "His doctors — I'll speak for them — they were very pleased with his numbers."

While the Chiefs are optimistic Berry will be ready for the opener Sept. 13 in Houston, his rapid return would not be without precedent: Reid said they looked at case studies involving other professional athletes, such as Mario Lemieux, in deciding how to proceed.

The Hall of Fame hockey player was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in 1993, went through a similar course of treatment and returned to finish his career with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

"One of the things Eric and I talked about was just being honest with us about how you're feeling out here," Reid said, "and sometimes that's hard for a player to do, especially with his makeup. He's been great with that up to this point and I think that will continue through."